

REMARKS

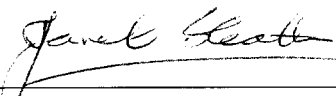
Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments. Following the amendments claims 1-18, 21-24, 26-28 and 30 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8, 9, 18, 21, 22, 23 and 26 being in independent format.

The pending claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies, correct minor typographical errors and to conform the claims to US practice. Claims 19, 20, 25 and 29 have been cancelled from the application, and claim 30, drawn to subject matter previously recited in amended claim 24, has been added.

It is urged that support for all the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed and that none of the amendments constitute new matter. Applicants further submit that the above amendments are not made for reasons of patentability and therefore do not give rise to prosecution history estoppel.

Early consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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